

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1-7, 9-18, and 20 are currently pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 13-15 have been amended. Claims 8 and 19 have been canceled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected claims 3-6, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 19 has been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 3-6, 12, 13, 15, and 16 have been amended to address the indefiniteness rejections. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 11, and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent Document DE 198 08 696 to Sommer et al. ("Sommer"). Claims 8 and 19 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Sommer does not disclose "a guide rail . . . having opposed first and second ends," and a "first insert body configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end of

the guide rail and the second end of the guide rail,” as recited by amended claims 1 and 7. The Office Action aligns the cover rails 4, 5 of Sommer with the claimed “guide rail,” and aligns the cover 40 of Sommer with the claimed “first insert body.” However, the cover 40 is not “configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end . . . and the second [opposed] end” of either cover rail 4 or 5, as claimed. Rather, the cover 40 can attach to only *one end* of each cover rail 4, 5 (i.e., the front end of each rail 4, 5, as shown in Fig. 1). This is because the opposed back end of each cover rail 4, 5 is curved, and unable to accept the cover 40.

In addition, although the cover 40 can arguably be interchangeably used in the front end of the cover rail 4 and the front end of the cover rail 5, these two ends are not “opposed first and second ends,” as claimed, but rather, are ends of *two separate rails*. Accordingly, Sommer does not disclose “a guide rail . . . having opposed first and second ends,” and a “first insert body configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end of the guide rail and the second end of the guide rail,” as recited by amended claims 1 and 7. Claims 3-5, 11, 14-18, and 20 depend variously from claims 1 and 7, and are patentable over Sommer for at least the same reasons.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

(1) The Office Action rejected claims 1-11 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Swiss Patent Document CH 678964 to Kaiser et al. (“Kaiser”) in view of Sommer. Claims 8 and 19 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

No reasonable combination of Kaiser and Sommer discloses or renders obvious “a guide rail . . . having opposed first and second ends,” and a “current feed [comprising] a first insert body . . . configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end of the guide rail and the second end of the guide rail,” as recited by amended claims 1 and 7. The Office Action aligns the profile rail 10 of Kaiser with the claimed “guide rail,” and aligns the end piece 16 of Kaiser with the claimed “first insert body.” However, the end piece 16 is *not* part of a current feed, as claimed. Rather, Kaiser provides current to the electric motor 20 independently of the end pieces 16. Sommer does not provide the missing teaching, because, as demonstrated above, Sommer fails to disclose “a first insert body . . . configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end of the guide rail and the second end of the guide rail.” Accordingly, no reasonable combination of Kaiser and Sommer discloses or renders obvious, “a guide rail . . . having opposed first and second ends,” and a “current feed [comprising] a first insert body . . . configured and dimensioned to be interchangeably plugged into the first end of the guide rail and the second end of the guide rail,” as recited by amended claims 1 and 7. Claims 2-6, 9-11, 14-18, and 20 depend variously from claims 1 and 7, and are patentable over Kaiser and Sommer for at least the same reasons.

(2) The Office Action rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sommer in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,981,026 to Blodgett (“Blodgett”). Claim 13 depends from claim 7, which as demonstrated above, is patentable over Sommer. Blodgett does not remedy the deficiencies of Sommer. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 7, and its dependent claim 13, are patentable over any reasonable combination of Sommer and Blodgett.

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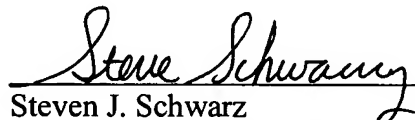
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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